Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 174776 TOSEC 080008 ORIGIN NODS-00

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SECRETSTATE 174776 TOSEC 080008

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TAGS: IS, US

SUBJECT:MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO THE PRESIDENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY THE ISRAELI EMBASSY JULY 10.

BEGIN QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

THE VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE GAVE MUCH PLEASURE TO ISRAEL'S PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT. WE SPENT MANY HOURS IN A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. IN THE TALKS, THAT WERE CONDUCTED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP, WE FOUND MANY SECRET

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POINTS OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND ALSO, AS IS NATURAL, POINTS OF DIFFERENCE THAT WERE VOICED, AS AMONG FRIENDS, WITH UNINHIBITED CANDOR.

I THINK I CAN SAY THAT THE VISIT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT STRENGTHENED THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

INDEED, WE RECEIVED IN THE WAKE OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT, THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, ENTITLED: 'PROPOSALS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.' AFTER STUDYING

THE PROPOSALS THOROUGHLY, IT WAS OUR DUTY TO SAY IN PUBLIC THAT THEY ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL.

MAY I BE PERMITTED TO SAY, MR. PRESIDENT, AS WE ALWAYS WRITE TO EACH OTHER IN COMPLETE SINCERITY, THAT WE HAVE HERE AN EXAMPLE OF UTTER NEGATIVISM OR, TO USE A KNOWN PHRASE, 'THE OLD CONCEPT' WHICH MAY ENDANGER ISRAEL'S VERY EXISTENCE. HOWEVER, THE CABINET GLADLY ACCEPTED YOUR PROPOSAL THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL JOIN SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE FOR TALKS IN LONDON ON JULY 18 AND 19 AS A NEXT STEP IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. OF COURSE, OUR FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BRING OUR PEACE PLAN TO THE CONFERENCE AT WHICH BOTH PROPOSALS WILL BE CONSIDERED, AND WILL DO HIS BEST TO PROMOTE THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS.

WE THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FOR YOUR FURTHER EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. LET US HOPE THAT THIS NEW INITIATIVE WILL PROVE TO BE FRUITFUL.

MR. PRESIDENT, WHILST WRITING THESE LINES, THE NEWS REACHED US ABOUT THE TRIAL OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY. HIS YOUNG SECRET

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WIFE VISITED ME ON SATURDAY NIGHT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE HER PAIN AND ANGUISH. IT IS INDEED A GREAT HUMANITARIAN ISSUE. SOMETIMES, IN ONE MAN THE WHOLE WICKEDNESS OF A TYRANNY, AS ALL THE STRIVING FOR JUSTICE IN FREE MANKIND, FIND THEIR EXPRESSION.

SUCH IS THE CASE OF THE GOOD MAN SHCHARANSKY OVER WHOSE LIFE A GRAVE DANGER NOW LOOMS.

MAY I RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOU INTERCEDE PERSONALLY WITH MR. BREZHNEV FOR THE RELEASE OF THIS INNOCENT MAN.

WITH BEST PERSONAL WISHES,

YOURS RESPECTFULLY AND SINCERELY.

MENACHEM BEGIN"

2. RESPONSE TO FOREGOING IS BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE SENT YOU SHORTLY.

CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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